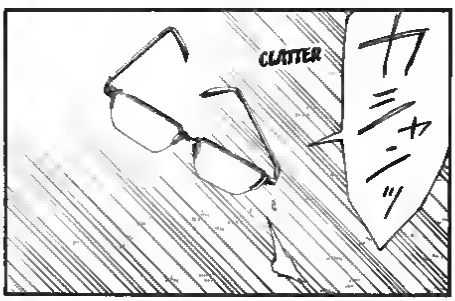
## Case 5: ⚜ The Missing Murder Weapon, Part 1

You want more money? Then...
I've had enough!!
This manga is my dream!!
I told you I'd pay you for it, so just...
WHAP
And include the manga I wrote!
...
...Then I'll write about it on my blog.
I'll tell them you stole my work!!
I'm going to talk this over with my friends!
TWITCH
Will really think that you...
TREMBLE
We'll see if my readers...
TREMBLE
only used it for inspiration!
GAH

WHAM

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
!!
SNIP
ZNN


CLATTER

は…!
HUFF...
は…!
HUFF...
は…!
HUFF...
は…!
HUFF...
Who...do you think I am...?
I am the world's greatest Mystery Manga writer...
Ryūnosuke Shiratori!!

WINCE
ビク!!
BRRRING
トルルルル
...!!

...
HM...?
H...hey... Asagi-san...?
D... dammit. I lost my temper...

Moé-chan is a busy girl.
Man, Asagi sure is late.
She's the one that asked to talk to us, so what's taking her so long?
She's an assistant to a famous manga artist.
SQUIRM
SQUIRM

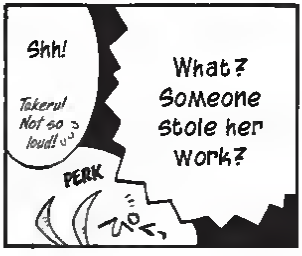
FLIP
FLIP
So what did she want to talk to us about?

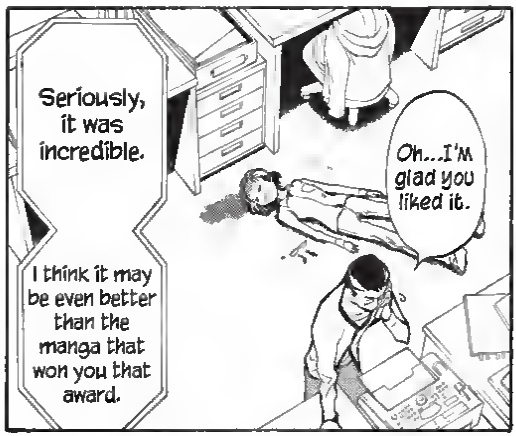
Yup. Moé-chan's a big fan of his, so she applied to be his assistant.
Ryūnosuke Shiratori, right? The mystery manga guy?
HMM...
Criminal Detective
SAITO
Ryunosuke Shiratori

Well...I've only heard bits and pieces, but...
...

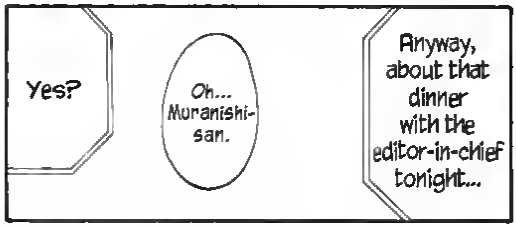
That is inexcusable.
I see.
LICK...

That's exactly what I mean! Stay in there!
PSST
Do you mean to say she's been plagiarized?
NYOO

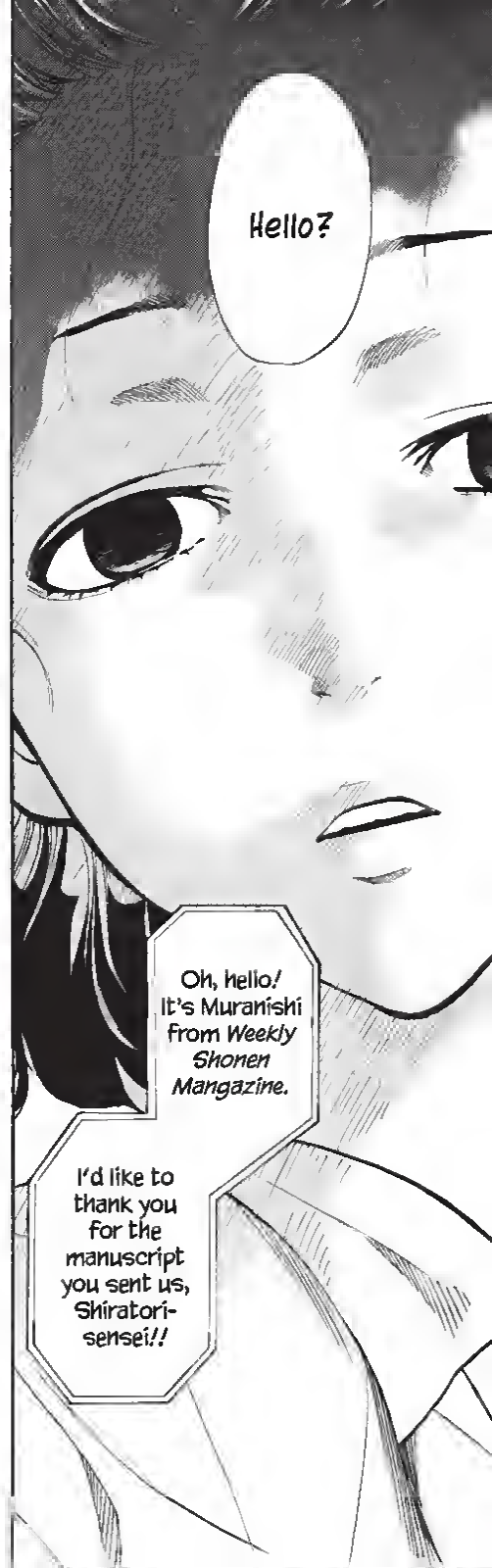

Shh!
Takeru! Not so loud!
What? Someone stole her work?
PERK


Seriously, it was incredible.
I think it may be even better than the manga that won you that award.
Oh...I'm glad you liked it.

Not... that that's a bad thing.
GLANCE
Is it really that good?
...


Yes?
Oh... Muranishi-san.
Anyway, about that dinner with the editor-in-chief tonight...

What? Really? Well...all right.
Please give my apologies to the editor-in-chief.
I'm sorry... something's come up. I can't make it tonight.
CLICK
I'll talk to you later.


Hello?
Oh, hello! It's Muranishi from Weekly Shonen Mangazine.
I'd like to thank you for the manuscript you sent us, Shiratori-sensei!!

I have to move it somewhere.
Oh, no...
...
Now what to do... with the body...?
...They're broken.
Her glasses.
...Nn?
PAK
THEN THE POLICE WILL SEE THAT THEY DON'T HAVE THE WHOLE LENS, AND THEY'LL REALIZE THE BODY MIGHT HAVE BEEN MOVED.
DAMMIT... WHAT DO I DO?
...BUT IF THEY ONLY FIND THE BIGGER PIECES OF GLASS,
THEN I'LL BE THEIR NUMBER ONE SUSPECT!
N...NO. IF THEY FIND ALL THESE BITS...
BAM

!
RUMMAGE
1-DAY
CONTACT
Here they are!
!
WAIT. IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN...
She sometimes wore contact lenses.
GNN...
Good I'll get rid of the glasses.
And put in the contacts...
SPLITCH
Blegh.
Urp.

HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
Now I just need to take care of this carpet...

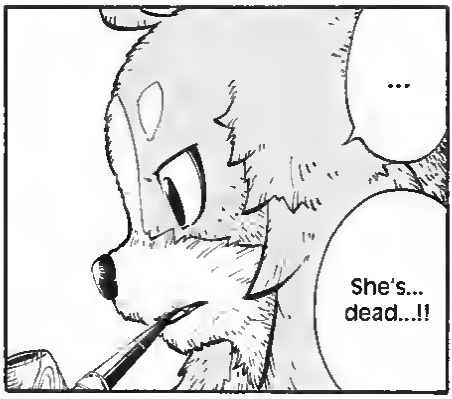
BWW
CALL
...Shut up.
Stupid phone.
BWW
...!!
BWW
BWW
BWW
WINCE

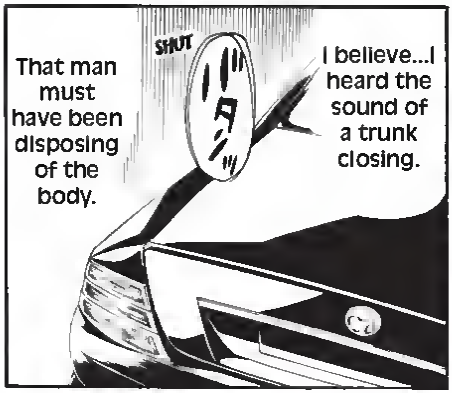
Yeah...and she's not answering her phone.
Seriously, she should be here by now.
Guess I'll try texting her again.
PFFT
I can't help it, I'M a puppy!
If you'll excuse me!
PATTER
Oh?
WHAT, AGAIN?
Nature calls... Watson.
NYOO
STOP DRINKING SO MUCH MILK!
Oh...he really is a smart puppy, isn't he?
Ha ha ha... yeah, I guess.
Will Sherdog-chan be okay on his own?
Yeah, he's fine. He just went to do his business.
He'll be back.

GLANCE
This should work.
KACHAK
KREE
BA-THUNK
...
WHOOPS.
IT MAKES SENSE FOR HER TO BE PASSING THROUGH.
IT'S BETWEEN MY STUDIO AND HER APARTMENT.
ZRR

RRRIP
If she looked like that,
No one will think she was molested.
Now all I need to do...
THUD
ドサッ
Whew... damn...
I missed dinner thanks to her.
I'm starving.

I'd better hurry back...
SHUT
Hm?
Whew, that's better.
I just don't feel right doing it with so many people around
I've come quite a distance
TEP
What have we here?
What is that man doing in this alley?
CHAK
VROOM
There's another smell mixed with the exhaust...
I have a bad feeling about this.
TEP
...four...
...Two... one...
He's removing a pair of gloves
...!


...
She's... dead...!!

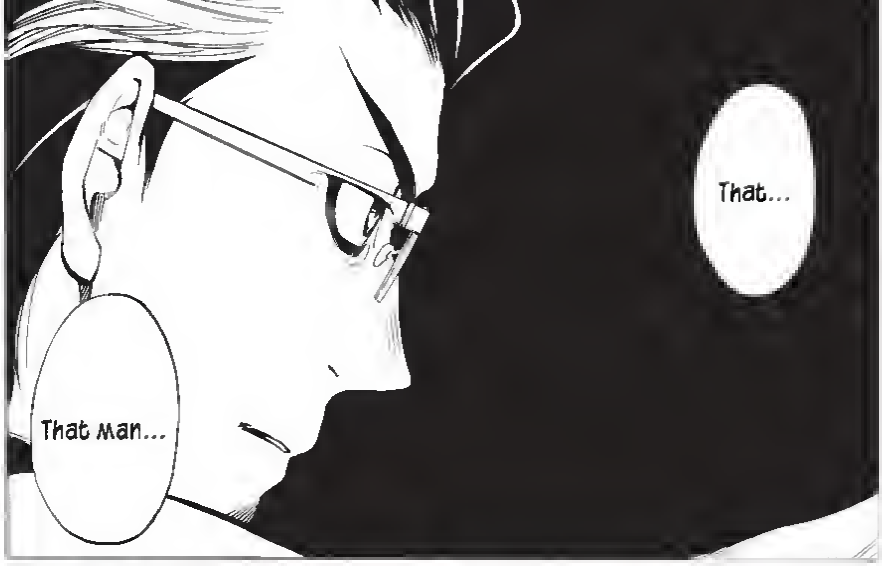

That man must have been disposing of the body.
SHUT
I believe...I heard the sound of a trunk closing.

I have his license plate number!
Now I must find Watson...

Blood!!

What? A murder?
Yes, I'm sure of it.
It was a girl about your age.
Drive-Thru
I believe she was hit in the back of the head with a blunt object.
Judging from the circumstances, the murder took place elsewhere.
And the killer brought the body here in his car to dispose of it.
Car...? What kind of car?
Like nothing I saw back in the nineteenth century...
An expensive German model.
!
And it was a dark color, like that car there.
ZOOM...
Huh?
...

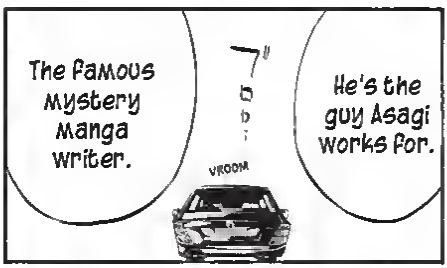
You're kidding! So who is this guy?
TMP
That's the car! I'M sure of it!!
The license number is the same!!
ARF!
What's wrong?
Sorry to keep you waiting.
HUFF
!?
!?
HUFF
!
...


That man...
That...

B-DMP...
B-DMP...
B-DMP...
The body you saw...
Was it...?
It...it can't be....

You know him, Watson?
Yeah, he's a famous manga artist.

GASP
Manga...?


The famous Mystery Manga writer.
VROOM
He's the guy Asagi works for.

EP OUT POLICE

POLICE KEEP OUT POLICE KEEP OUT
EP OUT

Yes. I have no doubt about it.
Sherdog
Moe-chan...how did this happen...?
Moe-chan...
this has something to do with
the plagiarism thing Miki was talking about?
SNIFFLE
Do you think
That would establish a motive.
THMP
...If it does,
then the plagiarist would be Shiratori.
Award-Winning Manga
The murderer
is her manga-writing employer.
Ryūnosuke Shiratori.
Ryūnosuke Shiratori-sensei
Of course we won't.
He won't get away with this...I won't let him.

We'll tear the mask off his face, Watson.
He's a cold-blooded manga artist who has the gall to pill his stomach after killing a girl.

You bet we will!!